

CĂTĂLINA CANGEA

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PERSONAL PROFILE

Third-year PhD student at the University of Cambridge, focused on learning multimodal and graph-structured representations of the world. Born on May 17, 1994 in Ploiești, România.

EDUCATION

Department of Computer Science, University of Cambridge, UK

PhD in Machine Learning (October 2017–present)

MPhil in Advanced Computer Science (October 2016–July 2017)

Distinction (81%)

BA in Computer Science (October 2013–June 2016)

First Class (75%) - 3rd year

Colegiul Național "I.L.Caragiale", Ploiești, România

Computer Science & Mathematics (September 2009–May 2013)

Valedictorian (grade 10/10)

SELECTED RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Graph Density-Aware Losses for Novel Compositions in Scene Graph Generation (third)

Novel density-normalized edge losses and weighted metrics for scene graph generation in few/zero-shot settings, at no extra computational cost. Results on Visual Genome and GQA. Under review.

Deep Graph Mapper: Seeing Graphs through the Neural Lens (joint first)

A fusion between Mapper (a Topological Data Analysis method) and graph neural networks that produces highly informative graph visualisations and a powerful pooling layer. Under review.

VideoNavQA: Bridging the Gap between Visual and Embodied Question Answering

Novel task that studies QA performance in EQA-like settings with nearly-ideal navigation paths. Generalised VQA models for temporal reasoning. Published at *BMVC 2019* and *ViGIL NeurIPS* spotlight.

Spatio-Temporal Deep Graph Infomax (third)

Unsupervised node representation learning using mutual information maximisation. Improves predictive performance of spatio-temporal auto-regressive models. Presented at the *ICLR 2019 RLGM Workshop*.

Towards Sparse Hierarchical Graph Classifiers (joint first)

CNN-like architecture with sparse pooling for graph-structured data. Matched SOTA on benchmarks, memory reduced from $O(V^2)$ to $O(V + E)$. Presented at the *NeurIPS 2018 R2L Workshop*.

XFlow: Cross-modal Deep Neural Networks for Audiovisual Classification

Multimodal architectures with cross-modal dataflow. SOTA on benchmarks. Published in *IEEE TNNLS*. Presented at the *ARM Research Summit 2017* and *CMCML Workshop, ICDL-EPIROB 2017*.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Scientist Intern—DeepMind

July 2020–October 2020

Working with Piotr Mirowski and Raia Hadsell.

Consultant—Relation Therapeutics	June 2020–present
Developing (graph-)ML solutions to aid in drug development and repurposing efforts.	
AI Resident—X, the moonshot factory	May 2019–August 2019
Worked on an early-stage project, using and adapting recent ML techniques to a real-world problem.	
Research Intern—Mila	July 2018–September 2018
Collaboration with Aaron Courville on a visual reasoning project which resulted in a novel benchmark and alternative perspective on EQA-style tasks, published at BMVC and spotlight talk at ViGIL NeurIPS.	
Software Engineer Intern—Facebook London	June 2016–September 2016
Worked on the LogDevice team, making client operations on a distributed RocksDB data store more efficient and flexible, while leading to fewer system failures.	
Software Engineer Intern—Facebook New York	July 2015–September 2015
Worked on iOS Product Infrastructure to reduce the time taken by the Facebook iOS app to load content close to the screen current view. Improved the infrastructure and network request prioritisation system.	
STEP Intern—Google Zürich	June 2014–September 2014
Added processing progress for video uploads on YouTube. Developed a JavaScript client implementation that requests processing information from the server and thumbnail rendering of processing videos.	

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Programming Languages	Python, C, C++, Standard ML, Java, C#, Objective-C, JavaScript
Machine Learning APIs	PyTorch, TensorFlow, Graph Nets, Sonnet, Keras, CUDA

TEACHING / SUPERVISING

Lectures: *Graph Generation Methods - R250 Advanced Topics in ML and NLP (Master’s course)* (2020)

Master’s projects: *”Representation Learning for Spatio-Temporal Graphs”* (2018–2019), *”Dynamic Temporal Analysis for Graph Structured Data”* (2018–2019)

Undergraduate projects: *”Deep Learning for Music Recommendation”* (2017–2018), *”The PlayStation Reinforcement Learning Environment”* (2018–2019), *”Benchmarking Graph Neural Networks using Wikipedia”*, *”Multimodal Relational Reasoning for Visual Question Answering”* (2019–2020)

Undergraduate courses: Artificial Intelligence, Databases, Discrete Maths, Foundations of Computer Science, Logic and Proof, Machine Learning and Real-World Data

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Chair/Deputy chair , women@CL, University of Cambridge	October 2018–July 2020
Machine Learning Teaching Fellow , Cambridge Spark	May 2018–present

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), French (beginner), Romanian (native)

INTERESTS

Music Guitar and vocals in a rock band—we play in colleges, pubs and at Cambridge May Balls

Rowing King’s Women’s First Boat (Jan 2018–present), Darwin/King’s Second Boat (Jan–Dec 2017)